

ON THE BORNEAN SPECIES OF TWO FAMILIES OF
COLEOPETRA.

Two recent papers* have supplied me with details for the following remarks, which are of interest in so far that they place on record the present extent of our knowledge of the Bornean species of these two beetle families, besides indicating the lines of relationship between the Bornean Insect Fauna and that of neighbouring countries.

(i) *Bornean Hispidæ*. In 1902 only 39 species of this family were known from Borneo. This number is increased in Dr. Gestro's latest paper to 59, twelve new species being described from Sarawak material. The author writes: "Dall' elenco generale delle specie "che faccio seguire, appare che sopra un totale di 59 "specie, 34 sono particolari a Borneo, mentre il resto si "ritrova nella penisola di Malacca, o nelle varie isole "della Sonda e soprattutto a Sumatra." Of the remaining 25 species (one of which, by the way, being found in Labuan and Borneo only, should be included in those peculiar to Borneo) 5 are peculiar to Sumatra and Borneo, 7 more to Sumatra, Malay Peninsula and Borneo, 3 to Sumatra, Java and Borneo. None are peculiar to Java and Borneo. Of these 24 species no less than 19 occur in Sumatra, 11 in the Malay Peninsula (including Burma) and 8 in Java. One species occurs in the Philippine Islands and two in Mentawai.

The above figures show: (i) a large proportion of species peculiar to Borneo, (ii) a close relationship to Sumatra and in a lesser degree to the Malay Peninsula, (iii) a markedly small relationship with Java and the Philippines. Though, as Dr. Gestro points out, further collecting in these countries will undoubtedly show more Bornean species, so that these figures will need certain modifications, yet they produce the same conclusions arrived at by other writers on different branches

* (i) Materiali per lo studio delle Hispidæ, di R. Gestro. (Secondo saggio sulle Hispidæ di Borneo). *Bull. Soc. Entomol. Ital.* XLI. 1909, pp. 122-150.

(ii) Description of three new Helota-species from Insulinde, by C. Ritsema Cz. *Notes from Leyden Museum*, XXXIII, 1910, pp. 75-80.

of the Bornean Fauna, and for that reason are of some interest. 37 out of these 59 species are represented in the Sarawak Museum.

(ii.) *Bornean Helotidæ*. This small Family of beetles, of which only 79 different species are known altogether, is represented in Borneo, so far as we know at present, by 6 different forms. They are small oblong beetles, usually prettily coloured with metallic markings on the elytra; their life history is unknown.

The following species are known from Borneo:—

1. *Helota brevis*, Ritsema (*Notes Leyd. Mus.* xiii. p. 199, 1891). Sarawak.
2. *Helota candezei*, Ritsema (*op. cit.* xx. p. 199, 1899). Sarawak.
3. *Helota magdalenæ*, Ritsema (*op. cit.* xxxiii. p. 75, 1910). Sarawak, Mt. Kina Balu.
4. *Helota vandepolli*, Ritsema (*op. cit.* xiii. p. 197, 1891). Borneo.
5. *Helota vigorsi borneensis*, Ritsema (*op. cit.* xxxi. p. 183, 1909). Sarawak.
6. *Helota vigorsi*, Mc. L. *var.* Ritsema (*Ann. Mus. Civ. Genov.* xxx. p. 885, 1891). Labuan.

Of the above, *H. candezei* and *H. magdalenæ* are recorded also from Sumatra, and *H. vigorsi*, Mc. L. *forma typica* is found in Java. Four of the above are represented in the Sarawak Museum.

II. ETHNOLOGICAL.

ON TWO SEA-DAYAK MEDICINE CHESTS.

Descriptions of three Dayak medicine chests (*lupong*) have appeared so far as I know up to now. These are:—

(i) “On Two Medicine-Baskets from Sarawak,” by R. Shelford, in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, Vol. XXXIII, January to June, 1903, pp. 74–81, plate XVI.

(ii) “The Contents of a Dyak Medicine Chest,” by Bishop Hose, in the *Journal of the Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Society*, 1903, pp. 65–70.

There is also an account of the charms usually to be found in a Dayak medicine-chest, given by Archdeacon J. Perham in an article entitled “Manangism in Borneo,” in the *Journal of the Straits Branch, Royal Asiatic Society*,